

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 3 have been amended, and claims 7-10 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration.

CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Changes have been made to the specification only to place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 2, item 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hara (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,847, hereinafter Hara) in view of Bloomfield (U.S. Patent No. 2,439,415, hereinafter Bloomfield), Siegla (U.S. Patent no. 4,249,488, hereinafter Siegla), and Sheldon (U.S. Patent No. 5,960,617). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 4, item 3, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hara in view of Bloomfield, Siegla, and Sheldon (as applied to claim 1), and further in view of Okubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,555, hereinafter Okubo).

In the Office Action, at page 4, item 4, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hara in view of Bloomfield, Siegla, and Sheldon, and further in view of Okubo (as applied to claim 3), and further in view of Nagano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,678,305, hereinafter Nagano).

Amended, independent claim 1 recites: "...an arm body, pressed from a single metal plate, and having first and second ends opposite to each other, the first end of the arm body having an internally threaded hole defined therein...."

Hara discloses a plurality of rocker arms 4, 5 and 9 each including an arm body that is prepared by casting. In contrast thereto, the present invention discloses and claims a rocker arm 1 (1A) including an arm body 4 (4A) that is prepared from a single plate metal by a press work. Based on this structural difference, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Hara, Bloomfield, Siegla, or Sheldon, either alone or in combination disclose or suggest "...an arm body, prepared from a single plate metal by a press work, and having first and second ends opposite to each other, the first end of the arm body having an internally threaded hole defined therein...."

In addition, and as a non-limiting example, the invention as defined in amended claim 1 is advantageous over the conventional arm body, prepared from a single plate metal by means of a press work, in that the claimed structure allows the adjustment screw 7 (7A) to be more fixedly locked in position without loosening, regardless of limited wall thickness of the arm body 4 (4A).

Regarding claim 3, the rocker arm 31 disclosed in Okubo engages a valve unit and a rush adjuster of an engine. Specifically, the first and second engagement portions 28 and 29 engage the valve unit and the rush adjuster, respectively, and the first and second engagement portions must be sufficiently thick and rigid to ensure a sufficient durability of the rocker arm 31. (See Okubo, at col. 10, lines 45-67.) Due to this large wall thickness, Okubo fails to provide a lightweight adjuster, as suggested by the Examiner, even though the rocker arm 31 is prepared from a single metal plate. Accordingly, the rocker arm 1 of the subject application, utilizing the nut arrangements to fix the adjustment screw 7, compared with the rush adjuster of Okubo, is significantly lighter. Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not be motivated to combine the rocker arm 31 of Okubo with any of Hara, Bloomfield, Siegla, or Sheldon, due to the significant weight of the rocker arm 31 of Okubo.

Claim 4 recites: "...wherein the internally threaded hole is defined in a first end portion of the connecting wall of the arm body and wherein respective portions of mutually confronting

inner surfaces of the opposite side walls are formed with helical partial threads therein in continuity with an internally helically extending thread of the internally threaded hole for threadingly receiving the adjustment screw.”

The portions of Nagano that describe the elements recited by the Examiner disclose a cubic valve stem receiving element 28 that is welded between side walls 11c of the rocker arm 6. A screw hole 24 is formed on the top face 28b of the valve stem receiving element 28, and a screw bar 25 is screwed from the screw hole 24 up to the groove 14a. A slit 26 is formed on one end 25a of the screw bar 25, to which a lock nut 27 is screwed. The other end 25b of the screw bar 25 is spherically shaped. The purpose of this structure is to easily provide clearance adjustment in the vertical direction between the valve stem 2a and the screw bar 25, by loosening the lock nut 27 and screwing the screw bar 25 to adjust the projecting amount of the screw 25 into the groove 14a. (See Nagano, at col. 8, lines 29-46.)

Nagano does not disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination with the other cited references, the feature of the partial threads formed on confronting surfaces of the opposite walls in continuity with threaded hole of the arm body, to receive the adjustment screw.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming *arguendo* that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine Nagano with Hara, Bloomfield, Siegl, Sheldon, and Okubo, such a combination does not disclose or suggest that “...the internally threaded hole is defined in a first end portion of the connecting wall of the arm body and wherein respective portions of mutually confronting inner surfaces of the opposite side walls are formed with helical partial threads therein in continuity with an internally helically extending thread of the internally threaded hole for threadingly receiving the adjustment screw.”

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6, which ultimately depend from independent claim 1, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-10, which depend from independent claim 1, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

Please note that the Office Action dated February 19, 2004 was improperly mailed to the prior attorneys who no longer have Power of Attorney.

Please note that a new Power of Attorney and Revocation of Prior Powers of Attorney, a copy of which is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience, was filed for this case on November 19, 2003. Therefore, please address all communications to Staas & Halsey LLP, USPTO customer No. 21171, at the address indicated below.

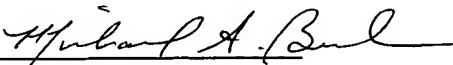
If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Serial No.: 10/634,762

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Michael A. Bush
Registration No. 48,893

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501